

RAIDER, SINKING, SENDS BRITISH SHIP TO BOTTOM

Greif Sunk February 29
While Trying to Run
North Sea Cordon.

BATTLE LIKE OLD FRIGATE FIGHT

Broadsides On, and Both Ships
Go Down with Flags
Flying.

(By Cable to The Tribune.)

London, March 25.—Like a mortal combat between frigates of old was the battle of the British auxiliary cruiser Alcantara with a German raider on February 29. News of the engagement, in which both ships went down with flags flying, was given out at the Admiralty today. Berlin also announces the battle, but declares it was between three British cruisers and a destroyer and the German auxiliary cruiser Greif.

On the day the Moewe, crowded with prisoners and spoil, ended her raids on British commerce and stole through the North Sea cordon back to port the Greif sought to escape. As on the Moewe, her guns were masked behind the platings of a peaceful merchant ship, and on her sides the Norwegian flag was painted, while the waves lapping her water line disclosed now and then a pair of glistening torpedo tubes.

Greif Moped to Escape Unnoticed. During the hunt for the elusive Moewe the Greif hoped to slip unnoticed out to sea. Even to inquisitive British destroyers she presented a bold front and was passed unquestioned. Thus the Greif progressed until she encountered the too inquisitive Alcantara.

Captain Wardle, sighting the strange vessel, noticed that, despite neutral markings, amidships, she carried no flag. He hailed her, and both vessels lay to. To his megaphone inquiries for particulars answers came in perfect Norwegian.

All might have gone well had not officers of the Alcantara noticed what resembled torpedo tubes on the merchant ship. There was also suspicious activity on the long taken Alcantara. In a few moments the Alcantara's guns were manned and the battle began. Even though she had been the pride of the Royal Navy's merchant fleet, the Alcantara fought as valiantly as any warship. The contest lasted barely twelve minutes. A few broadsides and the Greif was sinking.

Her guns silenced, her sides and her keel battered away, the raider was slowly settling. In a final try she let go a torpedo. The motionless Alcantara was an easy mark. A moment after the Greif slipped beneath the waves, the Alcantara lurched forward, capsized and followed.

The sound of firing had brought other British warships to the scene. Their boats rescued many of the crews of the two fighters. Five German officers and 116 men were picked up, of a total complement believed to have been over 200. The British losses were five officers and sixty-nine men.

Officers Sullen to Captors.

Most of the Germans seemed grateful to their rescuers, but the officers were sullen, their hatred apparently unquenched by nearly two years of war. One of them was picked up unconscious. He was taken aboard one of the British warships and tended with the greatest care. After a hot bath he was put to bed while his clothes dried.

When finally these were brought, the officer examined them with the greatest care. Then a frown spread over his face and he remarked: "You damned British must be terribly hard up for clothes when you steal my tie!"

The Admiralty statement is as follows:

"An engagement occurred on February 29 in the North Sea between the armed German raider Greif, disguised as a Norwegian merchant vessel, and the British armed merchant cruiser Alcantara, Captain T. E. Wardle. It resulted in the loss of both vessels, the German raider being sunk by gunfire and the Alcantara apparently by a torpedo."

Five German officers and 116 men were picked up and taken prisoners out of the total complement, believed to have been more than 200. The British losses amounted to five officers and 69 men.

It should be noted that during the whole engagement the enemy fired over the Moewe, colored, painted on the side of the ship.

This news is now published, as it is made clear, the receipt of a German wireless message that the enemy had learned that the Greif, a similar ship to the Moewe, had been destroyed before the Greif in passing our line of patrol."

The Alcantara was a large liner belonging to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company of Belfast. She had been in the service of the British government for some time. Her gross tonnage was 12,000. She was 570 feet long and was built in Glasgow in 1913.

Three German steamships are listed under the name Greif. The largest, a vessel of 1,163 tons gross, is 235 feet

long, was built in 1912 and is owned in Bremen.

Big British Cruiser Sunk by Raider, Says Berlin

Berlin, March 25.—The following statement on the engagement in the North Sea on February 29, in which the German auxiliary cruiser Greif was sunk, together with the British Alcantara, was issued today by the Admiralty.

"The Admiralty Staff states that, according to news from various places, which has been confirmed, an engagement occurred on February 29 in the northern part of the North Sea, between the German auxiliary cruiser, Greif and three British cruisers and one destroyer. In the course of the battle the Greif was sunk by a torpedo shot by a great British cruiser of some 15,000 tons, and finally blew herself up. "About 150 men of the crew of the Greif, whose names are not yet known, are now prisoners of war to the British. They are cut off from all communication with the outer world by the British, who observe the strictest secrecy regarding events. Measures against this have been taken."

Geneva, March 25.—Information received here today from German sources indicates that the raider Greif was blown up by her commander. The German government applied to the Swiss Red Cross to learn the fate of 150 officers and men on the Greif, designated as an auxiliary cruiser. It was said her commander blew her up during an engagement with three British cruisers in the North Sea on February 29. It is believed the men on the Greif were captured.

BERLIN SOCIALIST SEES NO VICTORY

Herr Haas Tells Reichstag
Party Hates War and
Desires Peace.

London, March 25.—Advisers from Berlin via Amsterdam indicate that yesterday's sitting of the Reichstag, although it was only a brief session for consideration of the emergency budget pending discussion of the regular budget in committee, was the stormiest on record and had to be closed by the President owing to disorder caused by the Socialist group. Of this group Herren Haase, Ledebour, Scheidemann, Ebert and Südekum were notable participants in the debate.

The sitting began with a heated discussion. The speech which caused the trouble was by Herr Haase, who declared that Germany would never win the war, which would be a drawn conflict. He declared that the German Socialists hated war and desired peace. "The best patriots in all countries are those who speak for an honest peace," he is quoted as exclaiming.

His remarks provoked a tremendous uproar, many Socialists rising from their seats and angrily disputing with each other. The Socialist Dr. David shouted to Herr Haase:

"Your policy is causing a prolongation of the war."

Other Socialists showered epithets as "traitors" on Herr Haase, who again tried to speak, but members crowded around him, threatening to strike him, and the President hurriedly closed the sitting, which was resumed later with very few Socialists present.

It is reported that the "Socialist Labor Community" is to be the name of a new faction formed by eighteen Socialists who withdrew from the party, with Herr Haase as their leader.

According to the "Vorwärts," the Socialist party, by a vote of 48 to 33, passed resolutions deeply regretting the incidents that had occurred in the Reichstag, declaring that Deputy Haase had violated discipline and loyalty, and that thereby he and his faction had lost their rights of membership.

It was upon this, according to the newspaper, that the eighteen members, including Deputies Haase and Ledebour, as heads of the movement, formed the new "Labor Community."

Further details of the address before the Reichstag of Dr. Karl Helfferich, Secretary of the Imperial Treasury, in announcing that 10,000,000,000 marks was subscribed to the new war loan, are to be handed via Amsterdam. Dr. Helfferich is quoted as follows:

"The financing of the war for another half year is assured. Germany is the only belligerent power which has covered her total war expenditure by long-term loans. That a nation of seventy millions, cut off from the outer world by arbitrary acts in conflict with international law, should have borne for twenty months the heavy burdens of the war, and should now again be offering more than 10,000,000,000 marks to the Fatherland, is proof of greatness beyond praise of words. It signifies that our strength is unbroken, that our confidence in final victory is unshaken and that the German people stand united as one man."

The breach in the Socialist Reichstag faction is hardly more than public recognition of the state of affairs existing in the party circles since the first days of the war. The session in the Reichstag had been preceded by Socialist party caucuses, in which, according to a statement by the party's executive committee, an agreement was reached to refrain from political speeches in connection with the discussion of financial measures.

The executive committee asserts that neither Herr Haase nor any other member of the minority protested against the programme. At the last minute, just before the debate, Deputy Haase announced that he would speak.

The "Vorwärts" declares: "Party unity is the outgrowth of the historic necessity of the proletarian struggle and of the indestructible force of the socialist ideals, which will again weld together with irresistible strength all elements on social democratic principles as soon as the errors and confusion of this maritime warfare shall have been overcome."

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